

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system, comprising:
 - 5 a server configured to execute an application;
 - a stateless client coupled to said server, whereby a user interacts with said application; and
 - 10 a storage device locally coupled to said stateless client, wherein said storage device is accessible by said user via said server.
- 15 2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said storage device is locally coupled to said stateless client via a Universal Serial Bus (USB) or IEEE 1394 interface.
3. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said storage device is a mass storage device employing magnetic media.
4. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said storage device is a mass
20 storage device employing optical media.
5. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said storage device is a solid-state mass storage device.
- 25 6. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said server is further configured to provide a kernel execution mode and a user execution mode, and wherein said server is further configured to execute a storage service daemon, wherein said storage service daemon executes in user execution mode.

7. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said storage device comprises one or more unit interfaces, wherein each unit interface comprises one or more logical units (LUNs), and wherein each logical unit comprises one or more partitions.

5 8. A method, comprising:

executing an application on a server;

a user interacting with said application via a stateless client; and

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said user accessing a storage device via said server, wherein said storage device is locally coupled to said stateless client.

9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said storage device is locally
15 coupled to said stateless client via a Universal Serial Bus (USB) or IEEE 1394 interface.

10. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said storage device is a mass storage device employing magnetic media.

20 11. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said storage device is a mass storage device employing optical media.

12. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said storage device is a solid-state mass storage device.

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13. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said server is further configured to provide a kernel execution mode and a user execution mode, and wherein said server is further configured to execute a storage service daemon, wherein said storage service daemon executes in user execution mode.

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14. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said storage device comprises one or more unit interfaces, wherein each unit interface comprises one or more logical units (LUNs), and wherein each logical unit comprises one or more partitions.

5 15. A computer-accessible medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable by a server to:

detect the presence of a storage device locally coupled to a stateless client; and

10 interface said storage device to an application executable on said server;

wherein a user interacts with said application via said stateless client, and wherein said storage device is accessible by said user via said server.

15 16. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said storage device is locally coupled to said stateless client via a Universal Serial Bus (USB) or IEEE 1394 interface.

20 17. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said storage device is a mass storage device employing magnetic media.

18. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said storage device is a mass storage device employing optical media.

25 19. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said storage device is a solid-state mass storage device.

20. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said server is configured to provide a kernel execution mode and a user execution mode, and

wherein said program instructions are further executable to implement a storage service daemon, wherein said storage service daemon executes in user execution mode.

21. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said
5 storage device comprises one or more unit interfaces, wherein each unit interface comprises one or more logical units (LUNs), and wherein each logical unit comprises one or more partitions.